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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Thirty-eighth session
12-23 June 1995

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

To be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna,
on Monday, 12 June 1995, at 3 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.*
5. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605).
6. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/607).
7. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

*Priority item in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 38.

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ANNOTATIONS*

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Item 2: Statement by the Chairman

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its thirty-seventh session. The provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

Item 3: General exchange of views

2. The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views. (Delegations wishing to speak under this item are asked to submit their names to the Secretariat as soon as possible.)

Item 4: Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/34 of 9 December 1994, paragraph 38, requested the Committee to continue to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 37 of the same resolution, took note of the views expressed during the thirty-seventh session of the Committee and during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly concerning ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Item 5: Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session (A/AC.105/605)

5. At its thirty-second session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee in its report to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly[1] and paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, considered the following questions:

(a) United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

(b) Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

6. The Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).[2] The Subcommittee's report contains a review of the Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 1994 and 1995 and a proposed programme of activities for 1996, which it recommended for approval.[3]

7. Regarding the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee in its report continued to stress the necessity of ensuring such coordination.[4]

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*The annotations and the provisional schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

8. On the question of regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation, the Subcommittee took note of the efforts undertaken as part of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in accordance with the UNISPACE 82 recommendation concerning the development of indigenous capabilities, to establish regional centres for space science and technology education in existing national or regional educational institutions in developing countries, as outlined in the report of the Expert on Space Applications.[5] The Subcommittee noted that evaluation missions concerning the establishment of such regional centres had been carried out in all developing regions. In response to the concerns expressed by Member States with regard to the centres in the Latin America and Caribbean and in the Asia and Pacific regions, the Expert on Space Applications clarified the procedures used in the selection process of host countries. The Subcommittee noted that in those regions above, the host countries reaffirmed their commitment to the prompt establishment of the centres. With regard to the other regions, the Subcommittee noted that concerned countries in those regions reaffirmed their offer to host the centres.[6]

(c) Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries

9. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 55 to 62 of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that the item be retained on its agenda as a priority item for the next session.[7]

(d) Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

10. The Subcommittee recalled that the General Assembly had adopted Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space as contained in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992. While noting that the Principles provided that they should be reopened for revision by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space no later than two years after their adoption, the Subcommittee also recalled that at its last session, the Committee had agreed[8] that the Principles should remain in their current form until amended and that before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision. The Subcommittee agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted.[9]

11. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item on a priority basis. At this session, no further work was undertaken in the Working Group. The Subcommittee noted the statement made by the International Atomic Energy Agency drawing attention to recent developments in nuclear safety and to the new document on Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Nuclear Powered Satellite Re-Entry, due to be published in 1995. The Subcommittee agreed that regular discussions on this issue should continue at future sessions and that the Subcommittee and the Working Group should continue to receive the widest input on matters affecting the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and any contribution related to improving the scope and application of the Principles.[10]

(e) Space debris

12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, the Subcommittee continued its consideration of the item, on a priority basis.[11]

13. The Subcommittee expressed its satisfaction at having the subject of space debris as a priority agenda item and focused its attention on the acquisition and understanding of data on the characteristics of the space debris environment. The Subcommittee took note of the informal working paper submitted on space debris by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the national reports submitted and contained in document A/AC.105/593 and Add.1, 2, 3 and 4.[12] The views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 76 to 96 of its report.

14. In order to advance in its consideration of space debris, the Subcommittee adopted a multi-year plan for its work as contained in paragraph 83 of its report. The Subcommittee agreed that the work plan should be implemented with flexibility and agreed that, notwithstanding the selection of a specific topic for the next session, delegations wishing to address the Subcommittee at that time on other aspects of scientific research related to space debris should be free to do so.[13]

(f) Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

15. During the course of its discussion on this item, the Subcommittee took note of the developments in the various programmes relating to space transportation systems, as reflected in paragraphs 98 and 99 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session.[14]

(g) Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

16. The Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 103 to 108 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the item be continued at its next session.[15]

(h) Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

(i) Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

(j) Matters relating to planetary exploration and matters relating to astronomy

17. The Subcommittee continued consideration of these items, and the views expressed are reflected in paragraphs 110-114, 116-120 and 122-124 of its report. It recommended that consideration of the items be continued at its next session.[16]

(k) The theme fixed for special attention at the 1995 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries"

18. The Subcommittee paid special attention to this theme and noted with satisfaction that, at its invitation, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) had organized a symposium on the theme. A summary of the presentations made as part of the symposium and of the special presentations arranged by delegations during the session of the Subcommittee is contained in document A/AC.105/606.

19. The Subcommittee selected a theme for special attention at its thirty-third session, "Utilization of micro- and small satellites for the expansion of low-cost space activities, taking into account the special needs of developing countries", as indicated in paragraph 136 (g) of its report. The Subcommittee recommended that COSPAR and IAF, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to arrange a symposium, with as wide a participation as possible, on that theme during the first week of the Subcommittee's session.[17]

(l) Other matters

(i) Third UNISPACE conference

20. The Subcommittee noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/34, paragraph 26, had agreed that the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could be convened in the near future and had also agreed that, prior to recommending a date for the Conference, there should be a consensus recommendation on the agenda, venue and funding of the Conference. In paragraph 27 of the same resolution, the General Assembly recommended that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conduct a thorough analysis and define an agenda for such a conference. The General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should discuss a broad range of themes and subjects that could be refined into a sharply focused and detailed agenda and should also continue its examination of other means of achieving the goals set for such a conference.

21. The Subcommittee noted with appreciation that following a request of the Committee, the Secretariat had compiled, in time for consideration by the Subcommittee, a document that contained the various ideas regarding the agenda and organization of the third UNISPACE conference submitted to the Committee.[18]

22. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group of the Whole, carried out the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly in resolution 49/34, paragraph 27. The Working Group considered the objectives and organization of the conference, other means to achieve the goals set for the conference, as well as other ideas presented in the Working Group, including a possible agenda and financial aspects of the conference. In adopting the report, the Subcommittee agreed that the report of the Working Group[19] should provide the basis for continued discussions by the Committee on a recommendation to the General Assembly as envisaged in resolution 49/34.[20]

(ii) Chairmanship of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

23. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation to its Chairman, Professor John H. Carver of Australia, who announced that he would be retiring after the thirty-second session. The Committee may wish to consider the question of the election of a new Chairman of the Subcommittee.

Item 6: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-fourth session (A/AC.105/607)

24. At its thirty-fourth session, the Legal Subcommittee, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 4, considered items (a), (b) and (c), below and, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Chairman of the Subcommittee conducted informal, open-ended consultations on the working methods and agenda of the Subcommittee.

(a) Question of early review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

25. The Subcommittee noted that the subject of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space had been considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-second session as indicated in its report. In particular, the Subcommittee noted that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted.[21]

26. The Subcommittee decided not to re-establish its Working Group. The Subcommittee agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted and therefore that it should not open discussion of that item during the current session. The Subcommittee further agreed that, at its next session, consideration by the Working Group of the item should again be suspended for one year, pending the results

of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and that this item should, however, be retained on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee as "question of review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space".[22]

(b) Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

27. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item; a summary of the discussion in the Working Group is contained in annex I to the report of the Subcommittee.

(c) Consideration of the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries

28. The Subcommittee, through its Working Group, continued its consideration of this item. The various views expressed on the item are contained in annex II to the report of the Subcommittee.

(d) Working methods and agenda of the Legal Subcommittee

29. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 8, the Chairman of the Subcommittee conducted informal, open-ended consultations with all members of the Subcommittee on the working methods and agenda of the Legal Subcommittee, including the consideration of possible additional items for inclusion in the agenda of the Subcommittee. All proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session, as well as a number of other proposals, were discussed during those consultations.[23]

30. Items discussed during those consultations included the duration of session, scheduling of meetings of the Subcommittee and its working groups, allocation of time for a general exchange of views and inclusion of "other matters" as well as new items on the agenda of the Subcommittee. Views expressed during those consultations as well as agreements and recommendations of the Subcommittee on the matter are contained in its report.[24]

Item 7: Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

31. As mentioned in paragraph 6, above, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conducted, on a priority basis, a joint consideration of this item and of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. The Subcommittee, in its report, took note of the developments relating to the International Space Information Service, technical studies, inter-agency coordination and cooperation, and regional and interregional mechanisms of cooperation.[25]

32. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 15, the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Subcommittee adopted the report of the Working Group,[26] which contains conclusions and recommendations on the further implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 and the work of the Secretariat.[27] (See also paragraphs 20-22, above.)

Item 8: Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

33. The General Assembly, in resolution 49/34, paragraph 39, requested the Committee to continue to consider at its current session its agenda item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

Item 9: Other matters

(a) Methods of work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies

34. At its thirty-seventh session in 1994, the Committee agreed to establish at its thirty-eighth session a Working Group of the Whole to examine the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, taking into particular account the results and recommendations of the informal consultations conducted by the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session.[28] (See also paragraphs 29 and 30, above.)

(b) Records of the Committee

35. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences requested the cooperation of those bodies currently entitled to written meeting records in reviewing the need for such records, particularly verbatim records. In its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the Committee to submit, in accordance with existing procedures, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Committee on Conferences, justifications for the continuation of the current entitlement to meeting records.

36. The Committee at its thirty-seventh session agreed that the Working Group of the Whole on working methods (see paragraph 34, above), to be established at its thirty-eighth session, should review possible alternatives to verbatim records, with a view to developing a recommendation on the matter. The Secretariat will provide the Committee with information, in time for consideration at its thirty-eighth session, on alternatives to verbatim records that might be available to the Committee.[29]

(c) Observer status

37. The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU), which are two non-governmental organizations, have applied for observer status with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The related correspondence and the statutes of the above organizations were circulated at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the information of the members States of the Committee.[30] Considerations on their observer status should take place at the thirty-eighth session of the Committee.

(d) Other reports

38. The Committee will have before it the report on the scientific and technical presentations in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.[31] Additional reports may be submitted to the Committee as available. The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

Notes

[1]Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/49/20), para. 165.

[2]A/AC.105/605, paras. 18-53.

[3]Ibid., paras. 23-32.

[4]Ibid., para. 38.

[5]A/AC.105/595.

[6]A/AC.105/605, paras. 40-49.

[7]Ibid., para. 62.

[8]A/49/20, para. 68.

[9]A/AC.105/605, paras. 64 and 65.

[10]Ibid., paras. 66, 67 and 71.

[11]Ibid., para. 75.

[12]Ibid., paras. 77, 78 and 86.

[13]Ibid., para. 84.

[14]Ibid., para. 101.

[15]Ibid., para. 108.

[16]Ibid., paras. 114, 120 and 124.

[17]Ibid., para. 137.

[18]A/AC.105/575/Add.1.

[19]A/AC.105/605, annex II, paras. 13-59 and appendix to annex II.

[20]Ibid., para. 131.

[21]A/AC.105/607, para. 24.

[22]Ibid., paras. 25-29.

[23]Ibid., annex II.

[24]Ibid., paras. 46-56.

[25]A/AC.105/605, paras. 33-53.

[26]Ibid., annex II.

[27]Ibid., annex II, paras. 7-60 and appendix to annex II.

[28]A/49/20, para. 158.

[29]Ibid., para. 163.

[30]A/AC.105/C.1/CRP.9.

[31]A/AC.105/606.

Annex
PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK

DATE	MORNING		AFTERNOON	
Monday, 12 June			Item 1 Item 2 Item 3	Adoption of the agenda Statement by the Chairman General exchange of views
Tuesday, 13 June	Item 3	(continued)	Item 3	(continued)
Wednesday, 14 June	Item 4	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes	Item 9(a),(b)	Other matters (Working Group of the Whole on working methods*)
Thursday, 15 June	Item 4 Item 5** Item 7**	(continued) Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	Item 5 Item 7	(continued) (continued)
Friday, 16 June	Item 5 Item 7	(continued) (continued)	Item 5 Item 7	(continued) (continued)
Monday, 19 June	Item 6	Report of the Legal Subcommittee	Item 9(a),(b)	Other matters (Working Group of the Whole on working methods*)
Tuesday, 20 June	Item 6	(continued)	Item 6	(continued)
Wednesday, 21 June	Item 6 Item 8	(continued) Spin-off benefits of space technology		
Thursday, 22 June	Item 9	Other matters	Item 9 Item 10	(continued) Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
Friday, 23 June	Item 10	(continued)	Item 10	(continued)

*In accordance with an agreement made at the thirty-seventh session of the Committee (A/49/20, para. 158), a Working Group of the Whole will be established at this session to examine the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

**As in the past, items 5 and 7 will be considered jointly.